

Amendments to the Specification:

Delete the following from the first line at page 1:

~~Patent Application~~

~~Messer Cutting & Welding GmbH~~

Please add the following new paragraph beginning at page 1 between the title and first line of the text:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application claims priority from German Patent Application No. DE 103 32 422.4, filed July 16, 2003.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Before the paragraph beginning at line 6 of page 2 insert the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Before the paragraph beginning at line 9 of page 5 insert the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Before the paragraph beginning at line 4 of page 14 insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Before the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 14 insert the following:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS